

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 555
By Brown

A RESOLUTION to recognize Roger and Imogene Gorsuch on the occasion of their retirement from foster parenting.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work and public service have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Roger and Imogene Gorsuch are one such estimable couple who have served with love and dedication for forty-five years as foster parents for the Department of Children's Services in Chattanooga, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Gorsuch will be taking a much deserved retirement after having nurtured and helped over 233 children during their commendable tenure as foster parents; and

WHEREAS, not only are Roger and Imogene Gorsuch of East Ridge the patriarch and matriarch of a five-generation family that includes four children, thirteen grandchildren, thirty great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild, but they have also opened their home and their hearts to serve an extraordinary number of foster children suffering from abuse, neglect, or abandonment; and

WHEREAS, natives of Pennsylvania, the couple came from Michigan to Chattanooga fifty-two years ago, when Mr. Gorsuch enrolled at Tennessee Temple University. They began babysitting and liked the work, so they applied to become Department of Children's Services foster parents; and

WHEREAS, this exceptional couple, who have been married for an impressive sixty-seven years, have set records in Hamilton County for their length of service as surrogate parents and for the total number of foster children placed in their care; the Gorsuches are still

contacted to this day by former foster children who flourished in the couple's nurturing and caring household; and

WHEREAS, during their exemplary time as foster parents, they have cared for children who ranged in age from a few hours old to teenagers, and thirteen nationalities have been represented within the Gorsuch household over the years; the longest a foster child stayed with them was for fifteen years, and at one point, there were five foster children under the age of three being cared for by the family; and

WHEREAS, Roger and Imogene Gorsuch are an active and important part of their community, having participated in numerous worthy organizations directly related to the natural and foster children they supported and raised, such as attending PTA and Scout meetings; and

WHEREAS, even when their commitment to being foster parents required them to travel long distances for medical care, the Gorsuches never refused a placement nor returned a child; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Gorsuch exemplify the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, throughout their estimable career as foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gorsuch have demonstrated the utmost professionalism, compassion, integrity, and heart, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of the placement agencies, their foster children and their family and friends; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Roger and Imogene Gorsuch our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, thank them for their incredible service to the children of Tennessee as foster parents, and wish them every continued success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.